

Contributions.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER.

Thou art our God, Redeemer and Creator;
Thou art "Our Father," dearest name of all.
Great in thy power and wisdom, in love greater,
Therefore we fear not on thy name to call.

Hear us, O Father, as we come confessing
The sins and follies of the bygone year.
Grant us forgiveness and with that thy blessing
Our faith to strengthen and our hearts to cheer.

Sweeten for us each bitter cup of duty
Or strengthen us their bitterness to quaff
Give us to see the King in all his beauty
And to behold the land which is far off.

We thank thee for our being and well being.
Give us uplifting and upholding grace
To serve thee here until, earth's shadow fleeing,
We evermore shall see thee face to face.
—*Buffalo News.*

PRAYER.

True prayer is speaking to God. It is talking in heaven and in the realms of the blest. It is speaking to the King of kings. What a blessed privilege! Using heaven's telephone! To the man of the world, prayer seems idle talk; but to him who prays in spirit and in truth there is no such thing, but there is real holy, heart-felt communion with our blessed Lord.

Because the distance to heaven may be great, is no excuse that prayer should be shouted. Elijah told the false prophets to shout aloud to their god as he might be sleeping or on a journey, but their loud shouting availed nothing. We may speak in a whisper and it may be as effectual as a loud prayer.

The Omnipresent eye and ear is ever open and sees and hears and knows all that his creatures do and speak. He sees and hears them wherever they may be. The Lord heard Jonah in the stomach of the fish. He heard Daniel in the lion's den. He heard Paul and Silas in prison at midnight. The Hebrews he heard in the fiery furnace; Hezekiah on a sick bed; St. John on a lonely island and Joshua in a multitude of people about Jericho.

Take away prayer from the Christian, if you can, and you take away his life. The real man in Christ breathes prayer, and does not only speak it. It is a part of his life, as his breath, bones and blood is. It is his daily feast for his soul's being.

A brother with tear stained eyes told one of his sweet soul-refreshing seasons he has had since he found Christ. At night as he lay on his bed he feels, in prayer to God, the sweet communion from earth to heaven, with the assurance that God has him encamped round about by his angels.

I have found prayer to be the Christian's battle ax. He can cut and smash to pieces Satan's artillery and put to flight a thousand well equipped devils by means of faithful prayer. See Elijah praying that it rain not for three and a half years, and it rained not for that time. See him pray again that it now rain and it rains. See the disciples praying for Paul and Silas in the inner prison and all these doors and locks and bars open and they are liberated. See the effect of prayer demonstrated to-day in hundreds of homes and lives. Hear the numerous testimonies from Fulton Street prayer meeting in New York. Hear those of George Muller of London. Hear our own, and God pity that man or woman who has none.

I know a mother who was well nigh at death's door, and when the skill of two physicians and their medicines failed to bring relief, (these physicians lived four or five miles away) and in their absence on the approach of night the mother became alarmingly low—near the step to eternity. All the family present felt that death was almost in the room. Their mother and companion was sweet to them and they loved her and had often before offered prayer in secret for her life to be spared. The time now had come for concentrated and united prayer, as death seemed to be taking hold of the beloved form already. Oh, what could be done to stay out the monster; physicians are miles away. But the Great physician might be near. The father called the children in the sick chamber and told them to pray for the life of their mother. Little children bent their knees by small chairs and stools and all prayed with all their heart and soul for the life of their good mother and companion. The prayer was scarcely ended before the mother began to mend, and all present felt that God's power was in those prayers and in that room.

These prayers were not read from a prayer book, but the pouring out of burdened, heart-sick souls to God for a life they loved. That mother in living to-day, although the occasion spoken of above occurred more than fourteen years ago. Can there be a true Christian living to-day who has had no experience in God answering his prayers? Again I say, God pity the man or woman who has never had his or her prayers answered! That man, if there be one, has not prayed with the right spirit, or he does not ask God for things which he should have.

We may pray for things that we may think we need and should have, and these very things, were God to give them, might be the cause of our soul's ruin. A man may pray for riches, and if God were to give them, it might be the means of weighting his soul down to perdition.

Children often ask to be allowed to have fire-arms, knives and poisons to play with, but to grant such requests would be to endanger their lives to almost certain death.

We ought to thank God heartily for that which he gives us and love him because he with-hold from us that which he does.

All the saints of earth have been and are devout praying people. Stop praying and you stop living in Christ. The means of communion between man and God is cut off when prayer ceases. There is no way, then, of sending messages of love, nor asking for aid and supplies, nor fitting ones self for battle array, if prayer be cut off.

Prayer must be accompanied by faith, for whatever is without faith is sin. A cold unbelieving prayer may be of no more use than to speak to a stone wall. But a spirited, fervent, all-soul believing prayer will accomplish anything in the province of God's wisdom to give. I say anything and I am sure it will be done.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

"It is the truth that shall make you free," Christ told the Jews. To that end the holy spirit was given in order to lead into all the truth, so that perfect liberty *should be* the result.